

Filed for intro on 01/30/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Bill No.SJR0025  
By Cohen

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A RESOLUTION to mourn the loss of Dr. Lemuel W. Diggs.

WHEREAS, it is with a deep sense of loss and great sadness that this body learned of the death of Dr. Lemuel W. Diggs; and

WHEREAS, as a scholar and genius, Dr. Diggs innovatively established the nation's first Sickle Cell Center and the South's first blood bank in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, understanding the need for extensive research relevant to the vast number of childhood diseases, Dr. Diggs' formulated policy for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where thousands of children are treated for catastrophic childhood diseases; and

WHEREAS, as he was engrossed in his sickle cell research, Dr. Diggs was most noted for his extensive study on sickle cell homoglobinopathies which brought about national as well as international recognition, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Diggs' atlas, "Morphology of Human Blood Cells," contains much of his research findings and is a very popular resource in hospital laboratories; and

WHEREAS, for his remarkable service in relieving the suffering of sickle cell disease, Dr. Diggs, in 1970, was honored by the National Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation; and

WHEREAS, his diligent pursuit of medical progress leaves behind a foundation upon which other doctors, scientists and organizations can build and improve; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Diggs, a native of Hampton, Virginia, was presented the Park-Mason Award as the "Virginian of the Year" by the Virginia Press Association, in 1978 for his accomplishments in sickle cell research and the practice of medicine; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization founded by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., awarded Dr. Diggs with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Medical Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the area of sickle cell research; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital attributes much of its success to Dr. Diggs and his relentless drive to formulate sound policy for the hospital. St. Jude director, Dr. Arthur Nienhuis stated, "he was a tremendous individual. He had a bright intellect; he was challenging, thorough and scholarly;" and

WHEREAS, expressing their appreciation for Dr. Diggs' benefaction, St. Jude, in 1993, announced a \$350,000 endowed fellowship at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, in his honor. He was also honored by being the recipient of the Danny Thomas Award for outstanding efforts in furthering the goals of St. Jude; and

WHEREAS, the number of awards presented to Dr. Diggs is extensive and serves as a chronicle of his life that represents the brilliance that he most certainly possessed; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Diggs is survived by his lovely wife, Beatrice M. Diggs; his two daughters, Alice D. Sullivan and Margaret D. Simons; his two sons, Walter W. Diggs and John S. Diggs; his sister, Dorothy D. Barton; and a host of grandchildren; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we express our deep regret at the death of this most exemplary scholar and our deepest condolences to his family and countless friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.